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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to examine the population of artists in terms of age, sex, and earnings and to compare the results from 1970 and 1976. An artist in this report includes people in the following categories: actors, architects, dancers, designers, musicians and composers, painters and sculptors, photographers, and radio and television announcers. Highlights of the analysis report that the number of artists increased 50% from 1970 to 1976, from 600,000 to 900,000, but that median earnings remained the same at $7,900. The lack of increase in earnings is explained by the 50% increase in artists, while positions for artists increased by only 23%. The number of women in artistic occupations increased by 80% while males in artistic occupations increased by half that amount. In 1970 artists' personal earnings contributed 62% of their household earnings, by 1976 the contribution had fallen to 44%. Women were more dependent on other household members than men were and accounted for only a quarter of the total household income in 1970 and 1976. These data suggest that while artists' personal earnings are relatively low, artists tend to be members of households which compare closely with total household earnings of all professionals. Although artists' median personal earnings did not increase between 1970 and 1976, the total household earnings rose by 40% during this period. The artists' population is composed of relatively young people and is predominantly male. From 1970 to 1976 the population became younger and the proportion of women artists increased. The mid-decade observation period was marked by a recession in which the rate of artistic unemployment increased more than all professional workers. The difference reflects the increased proportion of young people, women, and blacks in artistic occupations, because unemployment rates are generally higher for these groups. Over 40 tables and figures display and support the findings. (APG)

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Report #12

Artists Compared by Age, Sex, and Earnings in 1970 and 1976

National Endowment for the Arts

Research Division
January 1980

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Research Report #12

Errata

Page 1	line 24	For Chapter II read Chapter III
Page 3	line 1	For /page read /page 6
	line 12	For /page 17 read /page 16
	line 13	For /page 17 read /page 16
Page 24	Table 23	For 4,987 (line 19) read 4,897
Page 29	Table 27	For 73% (line 4) read 48%
Page 30	Table 28	For 94.9% (line 21) read 95.9%
Page 31	Table 28	For $3,933 (line 24) read $3,993
Page 32	Table 29	For $4,800 (line 12) read $4,300
Page 33	line 10	For professional read professionals
	line 13	For athat read that
Page 34	Table 30	For $6,000 (line 10) read $6,100
Page 35	line 12	For Male read male
Page 37	Table 32	For $1,454 (line 30) read 51,451
	" "	For 832,131 (line 31) read 832,181
Page 41	Table 36	For 1970 and 1976 (table caption) read 1970
Page 42	Table 37	For 902,656 (line 25) read 902,653
Page 45	Figure V	For 82% (line 1) read 81%
Page 50	Table 42	For $4,500 (line 8) read $14,800
	footnote	For fases read cases

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PREFACE

This study is the first in the Arts Endowment's research report series that makes comparisons between two periods, 1970 and 1976, and illustrates the kind of trend data that will be developed when the 1980 Census data become available for analysis. The data from the 1970 Census remains useful as a baseline for comparison, and no comparably detailed comparative analysis of the several artist occupations covering the important subjects of age, sex, and earnings is available.

Data gathered by the Bureau of the Census from two sources and then processed by a research contractor for the National Endowment for the Arts is the basis of this report: information from the 1970 Census Public Use Sample and the 1976 Survey of Income and Education (SIE) was condensed by Data Use and Access Laboratories (DUALabs) into two Artist Extract Files. These files contain comparative data on all professional, technical, and kindred workers (grouped in tabular material as all professional workers) as well as data on people in the artist occupations. As with all sample surveys, the Artist Extract Files are estimates subject to sampling variability. The analysis contained in this report is by Diane Ellis under the general direction of Jack Beresford, president of DUALabs, a nonprofit research organization specializing in the analysis of census data. Unless noted otherwise, this report is based on DUALabs' work.

The 1970 Census provided reliable statistics for individual artist occupations. Because of the smaller sample size of the 1976 group, however, accurate information was not available to the same degree of detail. Material on earnings and number of weeks worked was collected in 1970 and 1976 but is actually based on the years 1969 and 1975 respectively. An important note for interpreting income data is that differences exist in various conceptual, collection, and processing procedures used by the Bureau of the Census for the 1976 SIE and the 1970 Census. The 1976 SIE had a more extensive battery of income questions, better trained interviewers, data frequently collected by personal interviews, and new processing procedures to impute missing or incomplete income responses. For information more extensive than the summaries provided here, consult the following primary sources of tables, figures, and text:

United States Bureau of the Census, Public Use Samples of Basic Records from the 1970 Census: Description and Technical Documentation, Washington, D.C.: 1972 and United States Bureau of the Census, Technical Documentation: 1976 Survey of Income and Education, Washington, D.C.: 1977; United States Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population: 1970, Final Report PC (2)-8B; Occupational Characteristics, Final Report PC (2)-7A; Subject Report PC (2)-8A, Sources and Structure of Family Income, and Subject Report PC (2)-8B Earnings by Occupation and Education.

Also used were less traditional and accessible source materials such as the complete set of 1970 Census computer tapes. It is intended that a similar set of information on artists will be made from the 1980 Census Public Use Sample. All this material is available for replication or study. Further information can be obtained from Thomas F. Bradshaw, National Endowment for the Arts, Research Division, 2401 E Street, Washington, DC 20506, (202) 634-7103.

Research Division
National Endowment for the Arts
January 1980

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INTRODUCTION

Certain fundamental characteristics of a population can be studied to assess the occupational conditions of a particular group. Differences in social and economic status in a community, for example, can frequently be traced to a preponderance of males or females, or the very young or very old. The purpose of this report is to examine a population of artists in terms of age, sex, and earnings; and, toward that end, the same characteristics as recorded in 1970 and again in 1976 have been compared. The resulting information tells a good deal about contemporary artists and their lives and can also be used to forecast the contribution of the artist population to the future labor supply and our national cultural life and for planning to meet artists' needs. The findings will also serve as benchmark data from which the 1980 Census can establish suggested trends.

The term artist as used in this report derives from usage established by the Bureau of the Census of the United States Department of Commerce and includes people in the following categories: actors, architects, dancers, designers, musicians and composers, painters and sculptors, photographers, radio and television announcers and a residual category of artists, writers, and entertainers not elsewhere classified. The term performing artist encompasses actors, dancers, musicians and composers, and radio and television announcers. Artists are those people at least 16 years old in the United States experienced labor force; this includes persons employed or self-employed in any of the artist categories as well as unemployed artists seeking work.

The aggregate of persons in the artist occupations examined in this report increased 50 percent during 1970-76, from 600,000 to 900,000. In this period, however there was virtually no increase in artists' median earnings--which remained at $7,900 in 1976, the same as in 1970. Women artists' median earnings were at about 36 percent of the median for male artists in 1970, and remained at 36 percent in 1976. The median for black artists' earnings in fact dropped to 60 percent in 1976.

Median earnings for professionals rose 28 percent to $11,300 between 1970 and 1976. Considering that the consumer price index rose 47 percent during this period, artists' median earnings were significantly worse in 1976 when earnings of $7,900 were worth less than $5,400 by 1970 standards.

The lack of increase in artists' earnings is partially explained by the fact that in 1976, there were about 50 percent more artists than in 1970 while the number of persons in all professional occupations increased by only 23 percent. The increase in the artist population created an excess of artists to fill a limited number of jobs. Furthermore those who found jobs did so at the entry-level. Much of the addition to the artist population came from groups traditionally at the low end of the national income scale. The number of women in artist occupations increased by nearly 80 percent while the males in artists' occupations increased at only about half that rate.

In 1970 artists' personal earnings accounted for 62 percent of their household earnings, but by 1976 their contribution to their households dropped to 44 percent. Women artists were considerably more dependent on other household members than were male artists and accounted for only one-fourth of their total household income in both 1970 and 1976. In general, the data in this report suggest that while artists' personal earnings are relatively low compared with those of all professional workers, artists tend to be members of households which compare closely with total household earnings of all professional workers. Although artists' median personal earnings did not increase significantly between 1970 and 1976, their total household earnings rose by about 40 percent during this period.

As for composition of the population studied by age and sex, it is made up of relatively young people and it is predominantly male. From 1970 to 1976, it became younger and the proportion of women artists increased appreciably.

Beyond these observations it is important to note that the end of the mid-decade period was marked by a major recession in which the rate of artist unemployment increased more than that of all professional workers. The differential undoubtedly reflects the increased proportion of young persons, women, and blacks in artist occupations because it is well known from other studies of the labor force that unemployment rates are generally higher for these groups.

Table 1 **Median age of performing artists and all artists 1970 and 1976**

	Median age	Age 16-29		Age 30-59		60 and over		Total
1970								
Performing artists	30.6	68,111	49%	60,717	43%	11,069	8%	139,897
All artists	37.0	198,980	33%	355,731	59%	48,777	8%	603,488
1976								
Performing artists	27.2	151,965	61%	83,204	34%	12,258	5%	247,427
All artists	33.9	342,575	38%	488,136	54%	71,945	8%	902,656

CHAPTER I

AGE COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS
1970 AND 1976

Composition

In 1976, the median age of artists was 34. This is 3 years younger than in 1970, when the median age was 37 (see Table 1 and Table 2). The trend toward a younger age composition also exists in the general United States labor force. Among all professional workers, the median age dropped from 38 years in 1970 to 35.5 years in 1976. The 1976 labor force is relatively young because of the large number of workers aged about 30 who make up the post-war baby boom generation. As this group grows older, the median age of artists and other workers is likely to rise once again.

The proportion of artists under age 30 increased from 33 percent in 1970 to 38 percent in 1976. The proportion of older artists, those 60 years of age and over, remained the same between 1970 and 1976, at about 8 percent. This was similar to the proportion of older people in all professional occupations.

Certain artist occupations are relatively youthful in comparison with other artist occupations that tend to have a higher proportion of older members. In general, the performing arts have younger members than other artist occupations. In 1976, performing artists had a median age of 27 compared with a median age of 34 for all artist occupations. Furthermore, about 61 percent of performing artists were under the age of 30 in 1976 compared with only 38 percent of all artists.

Data for 1970 show a similar age difference between performing artists and all artists. For 1970 age data for specific artist occupations are available, and (as shown in Table 1) the median age

Table 2 **Artists' occupations by age 1970**

Occupation	Median age	Age 16-29	Age 30-59	Age 60 and over	Total
Actors	35.0	5,317 38%	7,649 54%	1,174 8%	14,140
Architects	40.6	11,093 19%	40,415 71%	5,573 10%	57,081
Authors	41.5	5,195 20%	17,965 69%	2,844 11%	26,004
Dancers	24.7	5,432 78%	1,410 20%	82 1%	6,924
Designers	37.2	32,867 29%	71,838 64%	7,620 7%	112,325
Musicians/composers	31.8	48,819 47%	42,264 44%	9,254 10%	96,537
Painters/sculptors	38.0	33,788 31%	65,051 61%	8,627 8%	107,476
Photographers	39.4	19,788 30%	40,564 61%	5,608 9%	65,960
Radio-TV announcers	28.9	12,240 55%	9,394 42%	662 3%	22,296
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	38.8	8,360 27%	19,967 65%	2,327 8%	30,654
Other artists not elsewhere classified	37.5	20,748 32%	39,214 61%	5,129 8%	64,091
All artists	37.0	229,250 38%	355,731 59%	48,777 8%	603,488

Figure I

Age composition of male and female artists 1970

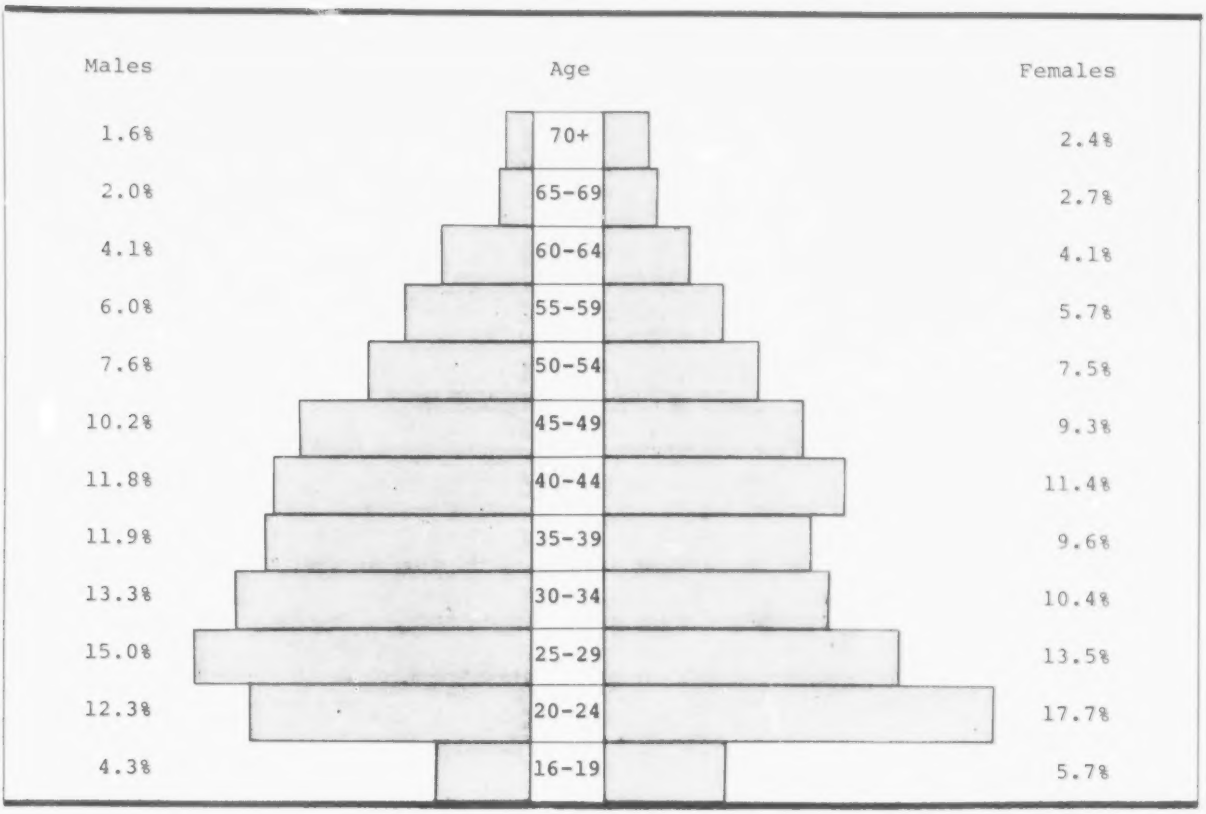

Table 3

Male, female, and all artists by age and sex 1970 and 1976

1970	Median age	Age 16-29		Age 30-59		60 and over		Total
Male	37.2	140,011	32%	269,796	61%	34,059	8%	443,866
Female	36.4	58,969	37%	85,935	54%	14,718	9%	159,622
All artists	37.0	198,980	33%	355,731	59%	48,777	8%	603,488
1976								
Male	34.0	230,413	37%	338,205	55%	50,694	8%	619,312
Female	33.7	112,162	40%	149,931	53%	21,251	7%	283,344
All artists	33.9	342,575	38%	488,136	54%	71,945	8%	902,656

for artists is lower in all performing artist occupations than it is in any of the other artist occupations. Authors tend to be older than any other type of artist, averaging more than 41 years. In the occupations of dancer and radio-television announcer, more workers are under the age of 30 than over 30. Dancers are the youngest of all artists, with a median age just under 25.

In 1976 as well as in 1970 median ages of female artists tend to be a few months younger than male artists (see Table 3). In examining five-year age intervals for 1970, women were most likely to be in the age 20-24 group, while men were most likely to be in the age 25-29 group. As illustrated in the age pyramid in Figure I women artists also show a decline in numbers in the age 30-39 group and an increase in number at ages 40-44. One may hypothesize that this is a result of women artists leaving the labor force to bear and raise children and subsequently reentering the labor force.

Earnings

The effects of age on earnings varied somewhat by artist occupation. In 1970,

Table 4 Unemployment rates in artists' occupations by age 1970

Occupation	Age 16-29	30 and over
Actors	**28.8%**	**33.7%**
Architects	2.5%	1.0%
Authors	**4.0%**	**4.0%**
Dancers	12.2%	21.4%
Designers	**3.8%**	**3.0%**
Musicians/composers	7.5%	5.4%
Painters/sculptors	**5.1%**	**3.0%**
Photographers	4.9%	1.8%
Radio-TV announcers	**3.1%**	**1.6%**
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	1.6%	.7%
Other artists not elsewhere classified	**6.1%**	**5.0%**
All artists	5.9%	3.8%

Table 5 Median earnings in artists' occupations by age 1970

Occupation	Age 16-29	30 and over
Actors	**$2,900**	**$ 7,300**
Architects	$8,500	$14,100
Authors	**$5,900**	**$ 9,900**
Dancers	$2,900	$ 5,700
Designers	**$7,400**	**$10,900**
Musicians/composers	$1,800	$ 4,900
Painters/sculptors	**$4,700**	**$ 8,600**
Photographers	$5,200	$ 9,100
Radio-TV announcers	**$4,300**	**$10,300**
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	$4,500	$10,600
Other artists not elsewhere classified	**$4,700**	**$ 9,300**
All artists	$4,400	$ 9,800

young artists could expect to find earnings more comparable to the "30 and over" artist group if they had occupations as designers, authors, or architects. But even in these occupations, earnings for people under 30 were only about two-thirds of earnings for those 30 and over. Young artists could find the lowest comparable earnings if they were musicians and composers, or actors, for all of whom 1970 earnings were extremely low.

Artists who are under the age of 30 are likley to earn less than artists age 30 and over. As shown in Table 5, artists under age 30 earned less than half the median earnings of artists age 30 and over in 1970.

Table 6

Weeks worked by artists in 1969 by age

Weeks worked	Age 16-29	30 and over
13 or less	14.4%	4.7%
14-39	23.0%	10.4%
40-49	17.0%	15.2%
50-52	45.6%	69.7%

Employment

Artists under age 30 were more likely to be unemployed in 1970 than artists age 30 and over (see Table 4). At nearly 6 percent, artists under age 30 had an unemployment rate one and one-half times the rate of artists 30 and over. Photographers, architects, and higher education teachers of art, drama, and music who were under 30 had unemployment rates that were more than double the rates of persons 30 and over in these occupations.

For actors and dancers these findings are reversed. Actors and dancers were less likely to be unemployed if they were under 30 than if they were 30 or over. For both age groups, actors and dancers had much higher unemployment rates than other artist occupations. Among older actors and dancers, however, unemployment was more severe than it was for the younger ones. In the case of dancers, their careers are coming to an end or often ended at age 30 because of the physical demands of their occupation. As noted earlier, their median age is less than 25.

Weeks worked

The data tabulated in Table 6 demonstrate that artists under age 30 worked fewer weeks per year than artists 30 and over. The table shows that nearly 15 percent of artists under age 30 worked 13 weeks or less in 1969 and only about two-thirds worked 40 weeks or more. During the same year, 85 percent of artists age 30 and over worked at least 40 weeks.

Table 7 **Percent of artists working forty or more weeks by occupation and age 1970**

Occupation	Age 16-29	30 and over
Actors	35%	43%
Architects	74%	95%
Authors	65%	85%
Dancers	42%	60%
Designers	79%	92%
Musicians/composers	44%	71%
Painters/sculptors	68%	85%
Photographers	72%	91%
Radio-TV announcers	72%	92%
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	59%	76%
Other artists not elsewhere classified	63%	82%
All artists	63%	85%

Table 8 **Proportion of artists with same occupation in 1965 and 1970**

Occupation	Age 16-29	30 and over
Actors	16.0%	62.7%
Architects	17.0%	75.1%
Authors	6.7%	53.9%
Dancers	8.9%	42.8%
Designers	18.6%	62.5%
Musicians/composers	20.2%	67.3%
Painters/sculptors	18.0%	69.0%
Photographers	20.1%	73.0%
Radio-TV announcers	22.6%	68.4%
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	8.5%	44.1%
Other artists not elsewhere classified	14.4%	46.2%
All artists	17.7%	63.8%

Work levels vary considerably by artist occupation, but in each occupation young artists consistently work fewer weeks per year than do artists age 30 and over. In 1970, architects who worked 40 or more weeks had the highest percentage at 91 percent, but only 74 percent of architects under age 30 worked at that level. Data for other artist occupations are shown in Table 7.

Length of time in occupation

The 1970 Census obtained some information on occupation five years earlier as well as on current occupation. Among artists, about half indicated they had the same occupation in both 1965 and 1970. This provides a rough measure of an artist's experience and establishment in the occupation, which can be equated with such other status measures as employment and earnings.

Age of the artist is an important variable in determining length of time in an occupation. Census data show that older artists are most likely to be in the same occupation over a five-year period. For artists age 30 and over, 64 percent had the same occupation in 1965 and 1970 (see Table 8). For artists under age 30, only 18 percent had the same occupation (however, most artists are entering their occupation at this age).

There are some major differences among younger and older artists for the proportion that remain in their individual occupations at least five years. For example, young radio-TV announcers under age 30 are more than three times as likely as authors in the same age group to have the same occupation. Among older artists,

Table 9 **Median school years completed in artists' occupations by age 1970**

Occupation	Years of school	
	Age 16-29	30 and over
Actors	**14.5**	**14.1**
Architects	17.3	17.0
Authors	**16.2**	**16.0**
Dancers	12.4	12.4
Designers	**14.7**	**14.0**
Musicians/composers	13.0	13.0
Painters/sculptors	**14.3**	**13.5**
Photographers	12.9	12.6
Radio-TV announcers	**13.6**	**14.1**
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	17.7	18.2
Other artists not elsewhere classified	**13.5**	**14.0**
All artists	14.0	14.2

Table 10 **National distribution of artists by age 1970**

Region	Age 16-29	30 and over
Northeast	**18%**	**33%**
North Central	17%	21%
West	**47%**	**24%**
South	18%	22%

Table 11 **Regional artist population by age 1970**

Region	Age 16-29	30 and over
Northeast	**22%**	**78%**
North Central	30%	70%
South	**30%**	**70%**
West	51%	49%
United States	**33%**	**67%**

architects are the most likely to have been in the same occupation in 1965 as 1970 and dancers are the least likely.

Education

There is little difference in educational attainment for artists of different age groups. Table 9 shows that in 1970 artists under age 30 had completed an average of 14 years of schooling. This is equivalent to the completion of high school plus 2 years of college. For artists age 30 and over, educational attainment was nearly the same, at 14.2 years.

In certain occupations, educational attainment is greater for young artists than it is for artists 30 and over. The 1970 data show that differences in educational attainment were greatest in the occupations of painter/sculptor and designer, where younger artists had more years of education than artists 30 and over. The percentage of artists who attended college is about the same for artists under 30 and for those 30 and over, at about 60 percent.

Residence

The 1970 data show a marked tendency for young artists to live in the western region of the United States. This area includes the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, and Hawaii. As shown in Table 10 nearly half (47 percent) of all artists under the age of 30 lived in the West compared with 24 percent of artists age 30 and over who lived there.

Artists over the age of 30 were more evenly distributed around the country in 1970 than were artists under 30. Among artists age 30 and over, more lived in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine than in any other region. One-third of artists age 30 and over lived in the Northeast in 1970 compared with only 18 percent of younger artists.

The South and North Central regions had similar proportions of artists under and over 30, at about 20 percent for each group in each region.

Artists under the age of 30 made up 33 percent of all United States artists in 1970. This proportion varies in the different regions of the country as shown in Table 11. The Northeast region had the smallest proportion of artists under age 30 with only 22 percent of artists in this age group. In contrast, in the West the artist population is almost equally divided between those under age 30 and those over age 30. The South and North Central regions are close to the national average, with 30 percent of their artists under age 30.

CHAPTER II

SEX COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS
1970 AND 1976

Composition

Although there is considerable variation in the relative representation of men and women in the different artist occupations (see Table 12), the proportion of men is much higher in the total of artist occupations than it is among all professional occupations (see Table 13). In 1976, the artist occupations were 69 percent male compared with 57 percent male in all professional occupations. Between 1970 and 1976 the number of women artists increased by over 75 percent while the number of male artists increased by 40 percent. However, the proportion of women artists remains relatively low when compared with women in all professional occupations. Despite their numerical increase, the proportion of women in the arts has only grown from 26 percent of the 600,000 artists in 1970 to 31 percent of the 900,000 artists 1976---whereas women constitute 43 percent of all professional workers in 1976.

In 1970 there were large differences in the sex composition of specific artist occupations. Dance was the only occupation in which there were more women (82 percent) than men. In contrast, women made up only 4 percent of the architect labor force and 6 percent of radio-TV announcers. This means that for every female architect, there were 25 male architects; for every female announcer, there were 14 male announcers; and for every female photographer, there were 6 male photographers. Figure II compares the sex composition of all artist occupations in 1970. Minorities and Women in the Arts: 1970, National Endowment for the Arts, Research Division Report #7 (see list at the back of this report), provides more detailed information.

Figure II **Sex composition of artists' occupations 1970**

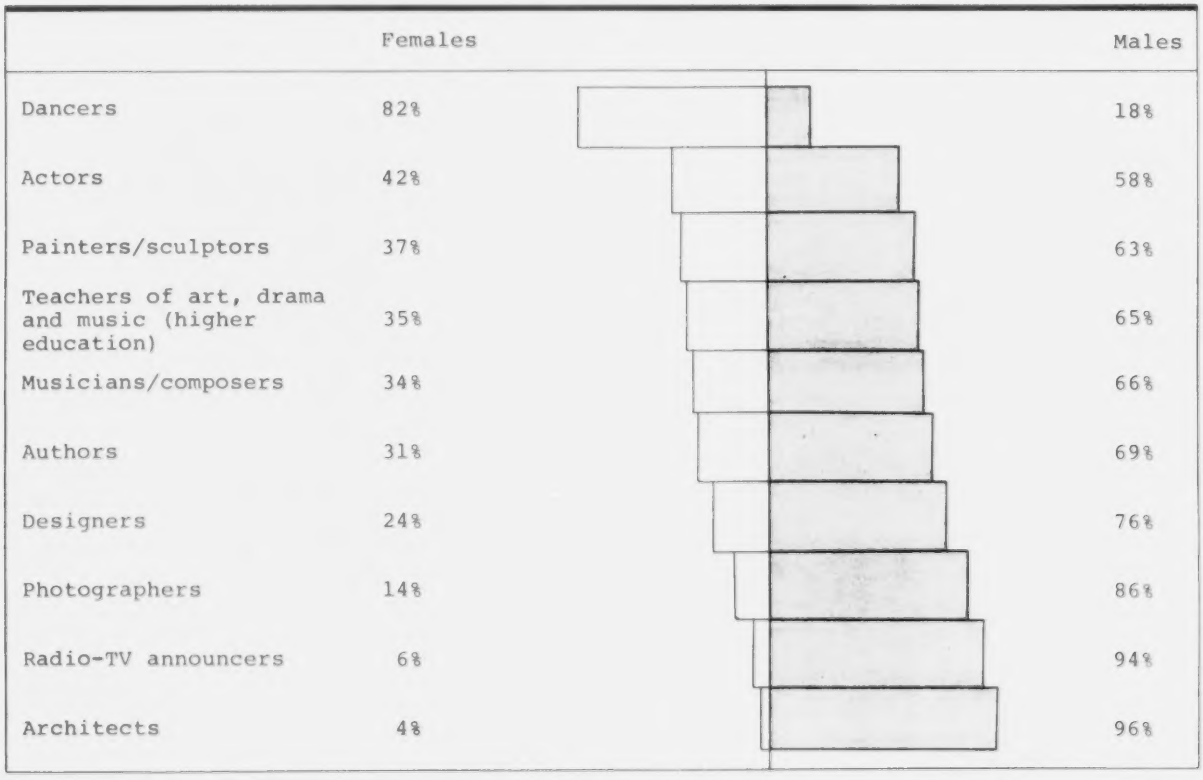

Table 12 Artists' occupations by sex 1970

Occupation	Male		Female		Total
Actors	8,213	58%	5,927	42%	14,140
Architects	54,948	96%	2,133	4%	57,081
Authors	18,069	69%	7,935	31%	26,004
Dancers	1,271	18%	5,653	82%	6,924
Designers	85,243	76%	27,082	24%	112,325
Musicians/composers	63,677	66%	32,860	34%	96,537
Painters/sculptors	67,917	63%	39,559	37%	107,476
Photographers	56,526	86%	9,434	14%	65,960
Radio-TV announcers	20,873	94%	1,423	6%	22,296
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	19,992	65%	10,662	35%	30,654
Other artists not elsewhere classified	47,137	74%	16,954	26%	64,091
All artists	443,866	74%	159,622	26%	603,488

Table 13 Sex of artists and professional workers 1970 and 1976

Occupation	1970			1976		
	Number	Percent male	Percent female	Number	Percent male	Percent female
All artists	603,000	74%	26%	903,000	69%	31%
All professional workers	11,667,000	60%	40%	14,356,000	57%	43%

(Statistics in Report #7 differ for a figure similar to Figure II because the labor reserve as well as the labor force was included.)

Increases in the proportion of women artists between 1970 and 1976 seem to be concentrated in the nonperforming artist occupations. In the performing arts, the proportion of women declined from 33 percent in 1970 to 29 percent in 1976 (see Table 14.) Estimates for 1976 indicate that the occupations in which women have increased their participation include painter and sculptor, author, and teacher of art, drama, and music in higher education. The data indicate a decline in the proportion of women for the other artist occupations.

In 1970, there was little variation in the sex composition of artists in different age groups. (There is, of course, considerable variation in the sex composition within the individual artist occupations.) About two-thirds of each age group were male and one-third female in 1970. Artists under age 30 were about 33 percent female, compared with 31 percent female among artists age 30 and over.

Earnings

In 1970, female artists had median earnings of $3,400 per year while male artists had median earnings of $9,500 per year. This means that female artists as a group earned only 36 percent of the earnings of male artists. The 1976 earnings data show an increase in median earnings to $4,000 for women and $10,900 for men. This represents virtually no change over the six-year period in the proportional earnings gap between male and female artists.

Low median earnings for women are not unique to the artist occupations (see Table 15). Data for all professional workers in 1970 show that women professionals had median earnings that were 57 percent of the median earnings of male professionals. Like the artist population, no significant reduction in the male-female proportional earnings gap occurred among all professional workers from 1970 to 1976.

Lower earnings for women are partially explained by higher unemployment rates and less time worked during the year than men. These differences are explained in the following sections.

Table 14

Performing artists and all artists by sex 1970 and 1976

	Male		Female		Total
1970					
Performing artists	94,034	67%	45,863	33%	139,897
All artists	443,866	74%	159,622	26%	603,488
1976					
Performing artists	175,069	71%	72,358	29%	247,427
All artists	619,312	69%	283,344	31%	902,656

Table 15

Median earnings of artists and all professional workers by sex 1970 and 1976

	1970		1976	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
All artists	$ 9,500	$3,400	$10,900	$4,000
All professional workers	$10,600	$6,000	$14,500	$8,400

Table 16

Unemployment rates in artists' occupations by sex 1970

Occupation	Male	Female
Actors	**32.2%**	**35.0%**
Architects	1.4%	2.0%
Authors	**4.1%**	**4.1%**
Dancers	20.9%	13.3%
Designers	**2.4%**	**5.5%**
Musicians/composers	8.1%	4.2%
Painters/sculptors	**2.9%**	**5.3%**
Photographers	2.4%	6.7%
Radio-TV announcers	**2.5%**	**5.6%**
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	.7%	1.3%
Other artists not elsewhere classified	**4.7%**	**6.5%**
All artists	4.0%	6.3%

Table 17

Distribution of weeks worked by sex 1969

Weeks worked	Male	Female
13 or less	**5.4%**	**14.8%**
14-39	11.3%	23.4%
40-49	**14.8%**	**18.8%**
50-52	68.6%	43.1%
Total	**100.1%**	**100.1%**

Table 18

Proportion of artists working forty or more weeks by sex 1970

Occupation	Male	Female
Actors	**45%**	**34%**
Architects	91%	88%
Authors	**86%**	**70%**
Dancers	59%	43%
Designers	**93%**	**72%**
Musicians/composers	61%	54%
Painters/sculptors	**88%**	**66%**
Photographers	88%	68%
Radio-TV announcers	**82%**	**67%**
Teachers of art, drama, and music, (higher education)	80%	55%
Other artists not elsewhere classified	**82%**	**62%**
All artists	83%	62%

Employment

Women artists have more difficulty finding employment than male artists (see Table 16). In 1970, the unemployment rate for female artists was 6.3 percent compared with 4 percent for male artists.

Unemployment rates for women were higher than the rates for men in most artist occupations. The exceptions were the occupations of musicians/composers and dancers, where men had higher unemployment rates. Among authors, unemployment rates were the same for both sexes.

Weeks worked

Women artists tend to average fewer work weeks during the year than male artists. In 1970, 62 percent of female artists worked 40 or more weeks compared with 83 percent of male artists. Less than half of all women artists worked the full year (50-52 weeks), as shown in Table 17, while more than two-thirds of male artists worked this amount.

Table 19 Proportion of artists with same occupation in 1965 and 1970 by sex

Occupation	Male	Female
Actors	**47.5%**	**42.0%**
Architects	64.4%	54.8%
Authors	**46.5%**	**41.6%**
Dancers	20.5%	15.2%
Designers	**52.5%**	**42.0%**
Musicians/composers	45.3%	45.8%
Painters/sculptors	**62.3%**	**38.7%**
Photographers	59.2%	41.4%
Radio-TV announcers	**44.0%**	**43.5%**
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	36.7%	30.2%
Other artists not elsewhere classified	**39.0%**	**29.1%**
All artists	52.4%	39.0%

Table 20 Median school years completed in artists' occupations by sex 1970

Occupation	Years of school completed: Male	Female
Actors	**14.5**	**13.8**
Architects	17.0	17.0
Authors	**15.9**	**16.2**
Dancers	12.9	12.3
Designers	**14.1**	**13.7**
Musicians/composers	12.9	13.6
Painters/sculptors	**13.7**	**13.9**
Photographers	12.7	12.6
Radio-TV announcers	**13.8**	**13.4**
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	17+	17+
Other artists not elsewhere classified	**14.0**	**13.5**
All artists	14.2	14.0

In all artist occupations, a higher proportion of males than females worked 40 or more weeks during the year. Among architects, women averaged more weeks worked in 1970 than in any other artist occupation. As a result, architects had the smallest difference in male-female work levels. In 1970, 91 percent of male architects worked 40 or more weeks compared with 88 percent of female architects. Table 18 shows the percentage of artists in each occupation who worked 40 or more weeks.

Length of time in occupation

Although nearly half of all artists indicated they were in the same occupation in both 1965 and 1970 the proportion for men was higher than women---with 52 percent of males as compared with 39 percent of

females reporting the same occupation in both years (see Table 19).

The occupations of painter/sculptor and photographer showed the largest differences between males and females in the proportion who reported being in those occupations for both time periods--62 percent of male painters and sculptors compared with 39 percent of female painters and sculptors. Among photographers, 59 percent of males and 41 percent of females reported being in the same occupation in 1965 and 1970. The occupations of musician/composer and radio-TV announcer were the only ones in which the same proportion of men and women reported the same occupations in 1965 and 1970.

Education

The level of educational attainment is very similar for male and female artists. In 1970, male artists averaged 14.2 years of completed schooling, and female artists averaged 14.0 years. This is equivalent to the completion of high school plus two years of college. As shown in Table 20, male and female artists had similar levels of education in all of the artist occupations.

Residence

Data on artists employed in 1970 showed no differences in geographic distribution of male and female artists in the four major regions of the United States. About 31 percent of each sex reside in the Northeast; 24 percent in the North Central; 23 percent in the South; and 22 percent in the West. For a detailed discussion of the geographic distribution of the United States artist population, see Where Artists Live: 1970, National Endowment for the Arts, Research Division Report #5 (see list at the back of this report).

CHAPTER III

EARNINGS 1970 AND 1976

Personal earnings

Comparing income statistics in the artist population shows differences in earnings among artists of various occupations, ages, educational backgrounds, and regions, as well as between males and females and blacks and whites. Household earnings for artists are also examined because these data are useful in understanding the extent of financial dependence of artists on other members of their households.

Earnings data used in this report were collected in 1970 and 1976. The 1976 data provide some understanding of earning trends, the most important of which is that earnings for artists are not increasing as much as earnings for the rest of the American workforce. The earnings picture for artists in 1976 appears relatively worse than that of 1970. Comparisons of income estimates from the 1976 SIE and the 1970 Census are contained throughout this report. When comparing earnings data from these two sources, it should be remembered that some differences exist in conceptual, collection, and processing procedures used by the Bureau of the Census for the 1970 Census and the SIE. Most important, the 1976 SIE had a more extensive battery of income questions, better trained interviewers, nearly all data were obtained by personal interviews, and new processing procedures were used to impute missing or incomplete income responses. The numbers of artists in 1970 as shown in the tables in this chapter were derived from the 1970 Census Public Use Sample and vary slightly from the estimates shown in Chapters I and II which are based on Occupational Characteristics, Census of Population: 1970 Final Report PC(2)-7A.

Artists' earnings in 1970 and 1976 were relatively low among all professional workers. In 1970, median earnings were $7,900 (see Table 21). This compares with $8,800 for all professional workers (from the 1970 Census).

From 1970 to 1976 there was no increase in artists' median earnings, which remained at $7,900 in 1976. (Median earnings figures are rounded to the nearest hundred dollars. A more precise measure of change in median earnings between 1970 and 1976

Figure III **Median earnings of artists and all professional workers 1970 and 1976**

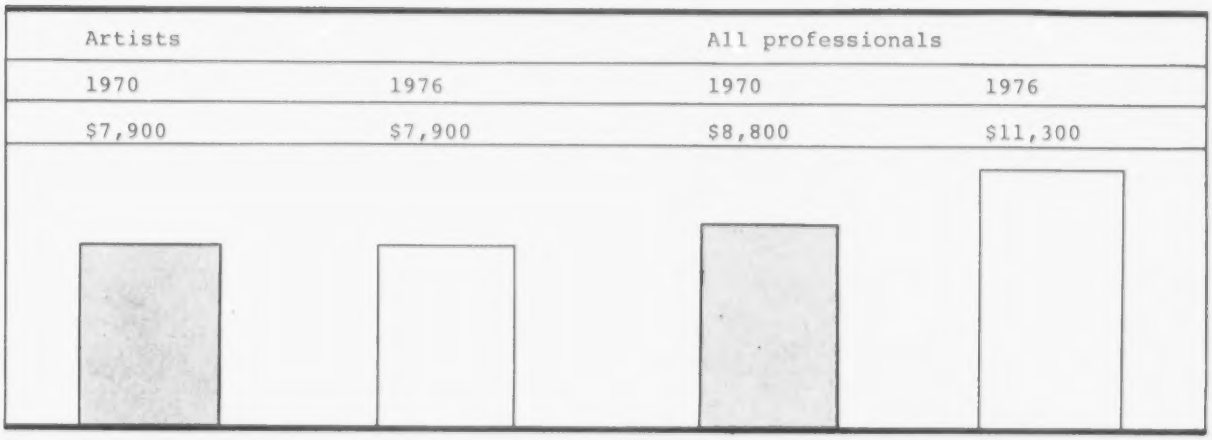

Table 21

Median earnings of performing artists and all artists 1970 and 1976

	1970		1976	
		Median earnings		Median earnings
Performing artists	138,057	$3,700	247,427	$3,700
All artists	599,394	$7,900	902,656	$7,900

is not presented because the figures are estimates subject to sampling variability). In comparison to the unchanged figure for artists, median earnings for all professional workers rose to $11,300--a 28 percent increase. Figure III illustrates this comparison. Considering that the consumer price index rose by 47 percent during this period, as reported by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statitistics, the artist population's median earnings were significantly worse in 1976 than in 1970. Artists' median 1976 earnings of $7,900 were worth less than $5,400 by 1970 standards.

The data indicate artists are not high earners. Fifty-eight percent of artists earned less than $10,000 in 1976, compared with 42 percent of all professional workers. Only about 6 percent of all artists earned $25,000 or more.

The absence of change in artists' median earnings between 1970 and 1976 may be explained by several factors. One is the depressed state of the United States economy during 1973-75. Any gains in artists' earnings which may have taken place during 1970-73 may have been offset by earning decreases which were evident in the economy during the 1973-75 recession.

Lack of growth in artists' earnings is also due to the changing composition of the artist population during 1970-76. Particularly significant is the dramatic increase in the total number of persons with occupations in the arts (see Table 1). In 1976 there were about 50 percent more artists than in 1970, increasing from about 600,000 to more than 900,000.

Table 22

Median earnings in artists' occupations 1970

Actors	$ 5,900
Architects	**$12,800**
Authors	$ 8,900
Dancers	**$ 3,300**
Designers	$10,100
Musicians/composers	**$ 3,000**
Painters/sculptors	$ 7,000
Photographers	**$ 7,800**
Radio-TV announcers	$ 7,100
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	**$ 9,100**
Other artists not elsewhere classified	$ 7,700
All artists	**$ 7,900**

During this period, the number of persons in all types of professional occupations increased by only 23 percent. Furthermore, the rate of increase for artists was greater among women than men. The number of women in artist occupations increased by nearly 80 percent, while the number of male artists increased at half that rate. The number of black artists more than doubled during this period. The performing artist occupations grew at a faster rate than other artist occupations, increasing by nearly 80 percent.

This overall increase in the size of the artist population created greater numbers of artists to fill a limited number of jobs and a greater proportion who filled low-paying, entry level jobs. The large increases in the number of female and black artists further deflated overall earnings because of the low wages received by these groups.

Income variations

There is a wide range of actual earnings in the different artist occupations (see Table 22). Certain artists have more difficulty than others in finding employment and maintaining an adequate income level. Such factors as age and experience and whether the artist is male or female all influence the earning level, and the type of occupation is naturally a major differentiating item. The reasons for

Table 23 **Earnings in artists' occupations 1970**

Earnings	Architects	Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	Actors	Authors	Dancers	Designers
Loss	399	0	0	234	0	432
$0-1,999	2,498	4,001	3,262	4,709	2,373	8,513
$2,000-2,999	1,264	1,165	1,200	1,137	698	3,567
$3,000-3,999	1,340	1,435	961	897	700	4,169
$4,000-4,999	1,371	997	666	900	502	4,064
$5,000-5,999	1,500	1,269	867	1,199	566	5,696
$6,000-6,999	1,569	1,439	1,173	968	535	4,528
$7,000-7,999	1,637	1,873	898	1,497	264	7,160
$8,000-8,999	2,828	2,265	567	1,899	166	7,872
$9,000-9,999	2,802	1,934	367	1,135	202	8,067
$10,000-10,999	4,200	3,098	536	2,331	168	12,072
$11,000-11,999	3,202	1,929	302	1,669	167	7,049
$12,000-12,999	4,630	1,865	569	1,425	33	7,941
$13,000-13,999	3,298	1,366	167	967	67	4,987
$14,000-14,999	3,003	1,297	167	734	33	4,705
$15,000-15,999	3,302	867	500	665	0	4,872
$16,000-16,999	1,731	568	67	670	0	2,433
$17,000-24,999	8,804	2,328	700	1,967	133	8,831
$25,000 or more	7,621	332	832	1,403	0	3,697
Total	56,639	30,628	13,801	26,406	6,607	110,565
Median earnings	$12,800	$ 9,140	$ 5,936	$ 8,875	$3,332	$10,100

income differences among artists are numerous and interrelated, but some patterns emerge. This section examines income variations among artists and the reasons for these differences.

Occupation

Occupation is a major factor determining how much an artist earns. In general, performing artists earn considerably less than other artists. Performing artists in each of the actor, dancer, musician/composer, and radio-TV announcer occupations earned below the median income for all artists in 1970. As a group, performing artists had median earnings of only $3,700 in 1970. Six years later, in 1976, their median earnings remained the same.

In specific artist occupations, 1970 data show architects as the highest earners with median incomes of $12,800 per year (see Table 23). Other artist occupations with median earnings better than the average were designers, teachers of art, drama, and music in higher education, and authors. Artists with the lowest earnings were musicians/composers and dancers.

There may be many reasons why earnings differ from one artist occupation to the next. The employment market for artists is a factor not examined here. Each occupation is examined by age, sex, race, and educational background as well as the geographic distribution of the occupation. These factors are summarized in the paragraphs which follow for each artist occupation. Only 1970 data and figures are considered in this occupational

Musicians/ composers	Painters/ sculptors	Photo-graphers	Radio-TV announcers	Other artists not elsewhere classified	Total
168	1,065	469	0	268	3,035
39,858	19,367	8,978	4,501	11,718	110,378
6,091	5,938	2,404	1,233	3,143	29,840
7,456	6,781	3,597	1,167	2,965	31,468
4,905	6,531	3,303	1,038	3,535	27,812
5,296	7,035	4,665	1,597	4,078	33,768
5,111	6,940	5,263	1,397	3,530	32,453
4,171	6,655	5,599	1,767	3,630	35,151
3,756	7,134	5,218	1,402	4,208	37,315
2,231	6,032	5,300	1,201	4,311	33,582
3,294	7,171	4,871	1,565	4,890	44,196
1,405	3,393	3,035	830	2,998	25,979
1,536	4,802	3,492	697	3,066	30,056
730	2,829	1,866	700	1,704	18,591
732	2,099	998	199	1,605	15,572
1,065	2,967	1,832	498	1,465	18,033
467	1,304	434	401	798	8,873
2,770	6,059	2,701	1,070	3,165	38,528
2,506	3,162	2,003	838	2,730	24,764
95,548	107,264	66,028	22,101	63,807	599,394
$ 2,958	$ 6,996	$ 7,774	$ 7,067	$ 7,735	$ 7,880

Table 24 **Earnings of performing artists and all artists 1976**

Earnings	Performing artists	All artists
Loss	**907**	**13,431**
$0-1,999	78,998	183,309
$2,000-2,999	**33,989**	**72,568**
$3,000-3,999	13,765	40,450
$4,000-4,999	**17,666**	**37,415**
$5,000-5,999	10,722	30,611
$6,000-6,999	**16,780**	**43,411**
$7,000-7,999	5,729	32,187
$8,000-8,999	**11,721**	**43,030**
$9,000-9,999	2,870	27,874
$10,000-10,999	**5,422**	**34,827**
$11,000-11,999	2,748	29,945
$12,000-12,999	**6,911**	**38,792**
$13,000-13,999	3,697	33,168
$14,000-14,999	**4,335**	**24,045**
$15,000-15,999	12,034	38,286
$16,000-16,999	**1,179**	**24,946**
$17,000-17,999	5,685	24,611
$18,000-18,999	**373**	**11,207**
$19,000-19,999	437	10,094
$20,000-24,999	**1,863**	**53,209**
$25,000+	9,596	55,240
Total	**247,427**	**902,656**
Median earnings	$3,713	$7,936

summary because data on individual occupations are not available from the SIE survey. For comparison of performing artists' earnings to the total artist population in 1976, see Table 24.

Actors, with median annual earnings of $5,900 in 1970, earned less than most other artists. Their low earnings are due in part to their average work level of only 34 weeks per year--fewer weeks worked a year than artists in any other occupation. Actors who worked 40 or more weeks a year increased their median earnings by nearly half, to $8,700. The disparity in income between male and female artists was less among actors than most other artists; female actors earned 74 percent of the earnings of male actors. As with other artists, median earnings for actors peaked in the 35-54 age group. Actors living in the western United States had higher median earnings than those living in other regions of the United States.

Architects had the highest median earnings of any artist occupation, at $12,800 in 1970. Those who worked 40 or more weeks per year earned $13,400. Architects are among the best educated of all artists. Earnings were highest in the 35-54 age group. Like other artist occupations, female architects earned about half as much as male architects. Earnings of architects tend to be uniform across the regions of the nation. However, there are differences for cities; the average New York City architect earned about $1,300 more than architects in Los Angeles or Chicago in 1970.

Teachers of art, drama, and music in higher education earned $9,100, which is higher than the median earnings for most other artist occupations. Only architects and designers earned more. Because of the nine-month academic year, teachers of art, drama, and music in higher education worked fewer weeks per year than most other types of artists. Their education is greater than that of other artist occupational groups. Women in the occupation earned only half as much as men. Unlike other artist occupations, median earnings for higher education teachers were highest in the oldest age group, 55-64. They earned more in the West and Northeast regions of the country than in the South or Central regions. In Los Angeles, they earned $2,000 more per year than in New York City or Chicago.

Authors earn more than the average artist and have relatively high work levels. Their median earnings were $8,900 per year, and increased to $10,200 for those working 40 or more weeks during the year. Women authors earned half of what male authors earned. Authors tend to be older than other types of artists and better educated than most. There is little difference in authors' median earnings from one region of the country to another although authors in the southern United States earned slightly more than those elsewhere, and Los Angeles had slightly better paid authors than New York or Chicago.

Dancers are among the lowest paid of all artists--only musicians earned less in 1970. Median earnings for dancers were $3,300. Their low earnings correlate with their low work levels (averaging 38 weeks per year) and the predominance of women in the occupation. It is the only artist occupation which has a majority of women (82 percent). It is also the artist occupation with the smallest gap in median earnings between men and women. However, female dancers still earn 12 percent less than male dancers. Also correlating with low median earnings are low educational levels (only 22 percent of dancers attended college) and youth (median age is 25). Median earnings for dancers are uniformly low across the country, but lower in the South than elsewhere. New York City dancers have higher median earnings than those in Los Angeles or Chicago.

Designers are among the best paid of all types of artists, with median earnings of $10,100. Only architects earned more in 1970. Designers have high work levels, averaging more than 50 weeks per year. Their educational level is about average for artists. Like other artist occupations, their median earnings peak in the 35-54 age group, and women in the occupation earn exactly half what male designers earn. Earnings are highest in the northern regions of the United States, and are similar among the metropolitan centers of New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

Musicians/composers had the lowest median earnings of any artist occupation, averaging about $3,000 per year. Musicians who worked 40 or more weeks per year were able to increase their median earnings to $5,200. Like other performing artists, musicians have relatively low work levels, averaging 45 weeks. Their earnings tend to rise with age and education, but both are relatively low. Women musicians have extremely low median earnings, less than one-third of male musicians' median earnings. Earnings for musicians are low throughout the country but are slightly higher in the West and East than in the central or southern parts of the country.

Painters/sculptors follow a typical earning pattern for artists. They had median earnings of $7,000 a year, but increased their earnings to $8,400 for those working 40 or more weeks a year. Their earnings tend to increase with education and peak in the 35-54 age group. Women in the occupation earn only 42 percent of men in the occupation. Median earnings for painters and sculptors are higher in the northern regions than in the South or West. New York City and Chicago provide better earnings than Los Angeles.

Photographers' median earnings were $7,800, which is average for the artist occupations. Their work levels are relatively high. The occupation is predominantly male, with women earning less than half of male photographers. Although their educational level is relatively low (only 36 percent had any college), it does not seem to affect their earnings. Photographers tend to earn about the same, regardless of educational attainment. Earnings are highest in the 35-54 age group. Across the major regions of the country (see Table 34), photographers' median earnings are very uniform, although they earned slightly more in Chicago than in New York or Los Angeles.

Radio-TV announcers had median earnings of $7,100, which was about average for artists. Their work levels are relatively high. The occupation is overwhelmingly male (94 percent) and women in the occupation earn only 42 percent of males. Radio-TV announcers are relatively young (median age is 29). As in other artist occupations, their earnings peak in the 35-54 age group. Educational attainment is about average for these artists (63 percent attended college), and earnings in the occupation tend to correlate with education. The Northeast region of the country provides better median earnings for radio-TV announcers than any other region; the South provides the lowest. Los Angeles has considerably better earnings for this occupation than either Chicago or New York.

Weeks worked

The amount of time artists spend on income-producing work is an important factor in determining their earning level. For example, in the performing arts occupations, where employment periods are frequently short, earnings were less than one-half for all artists. In 1970 and 1976, only about 60 percent of performing

Table 25 **Proportion of performing artists, all artists, and all professionals who worked forty or more weeks 1970 and 1976**

	1970	1976
Performing artists	62%	59%
All artists	79%	74%
All professional workers	80%	80%

Table 26 **Median earnings of artists by weeks worked 1970 and 1976**

	Median for all artists	Median for artists who worked 40 or more weeks	Percentage increase
1970	$7,900	$ 9,400	19%
1976	$7,900	$10,700	35%

artists worked at least 40 weeks a year (see Table 25).

The effects of longer work periods on artists' earnings are shown in Table 26. Artists who reported working 40 or more weeks in 1970 earned 19 percent more than the general group of artists, and those who reported working 40 or more weeks in 1976 earned about a third more than all artists.

In specific artist occupations, 1970 data show that actors, dancers, and musicians/composers averaged fewer weeks worked a year than other artists. Median weeks worked for actors were about 34, for dancers the period was 38, and for musicians/composers it was 45. All other artist occupations averaged 46 or more weeks per year. This lesser amount of time worked by actors, dancers, and musicians/composers is reflected in their annual earnings. In 1970, median earnings for these occupations is greater by 50 to 70 percent when we consider only persons in these occupations who worked 40 or more weeks (see Table 27).

Sex

Female artists make only about 36 percent of the median earnings of male artists--a situation which did not change from 1970 to 1976. In 1970, female artists had median earnings of $3,400 per year, while male artists had median earnings of $9,500 per year (see Figure IV). By 1976 median earnings increased to $4,000 for women

Figure IV **Median earnings of male and female artists 1970 and 1976**

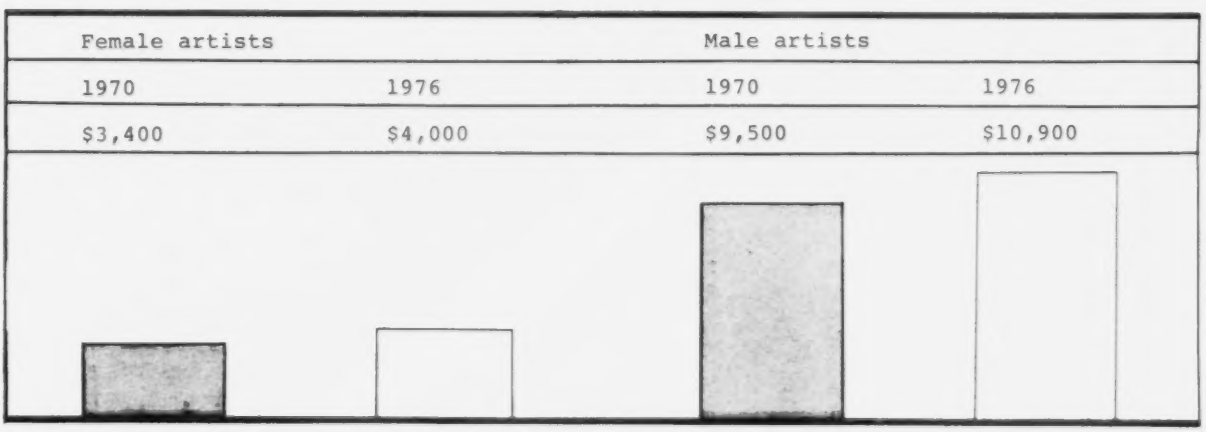

Table 27

Percentage increase of those who worked forty or more weeks in artists' occupations 1970

Occupation	Median	Median for artists who worked 40 or more weeks	Percent increase
Actors	**$ 5,900**	**$ 8,700**	**73%**
Architects	$12,800	$13,400	5%
Authors	**$ 8,900**	**$10,200**	**15%**
Dancers	$ 3,300	$ 5,700	73%
Designers	**$10,100**	**$10,600**	**5%**
Musicians/composers	$ 3,000	$ 5,200	73%
Painters/sculptors	**$ 7,000**	**$8,400**	**20%**
Photographers	$ 7,800	$ 8,500	9%
Radio-TV announcers	**$ 7,100**	**$ 8,100**	**14%**
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	$ 9,100	$10,400	14%
Other artists not elsewhere classified	**$ 7,700**	**$ 9,200**	**19%**

Table 28

Artists' earnings by sex
1970 and 1976

	1970					
	Males		Females		Total	
Earnings	Number	Cumulative	Number	Cumulative	Number	Cumulative
Loss	1,773	.4%	1,262	.8%	3,035	.5%
$0-1,999	51,712	12.1%	58,666	37.9%	110,378	18.9%
$2,000-2,999	15,805	15.7%	14,035	46.7%	29,840	23.9%
$3,000-3,999	17,659	19.7%	13,809	55.5%	31,468	29.1%
$4,000-4,999	17,169	23.6%	10,643	62.2%	27,812	33.8%
$5,000-5,999	21,478	28.5%	12,290	70.0%	33,768	39.4%
$6,000-6,999	22,684	33.6%	9,769	76.1%	32,453	44.8%
$7,000-7,999	26,856	39.7%	8,295	81.4%	35,151	50.7%
$8,000-8,999	30,045	46.5%	7,270	86.0%	37,315	56.9%
$9,000-9,999	28,516	53.0%	5,066	89.2%	33,582	62.5%
$10,000-10,999	38,957	61.8%	5,239	92.5%	44,196	69.9%
$11,000-11,999	23,677	67.2%	2,302	93.9%	25,979	74.2%
$12,000-12,999	27,531	73.4%	2,525	95.5%	30,056	79.3%
$13,000-13,999	17,295	77.3%	1,296	96.4%	18,591	82.4%
$14,000-14,999	14,642	80.6%	930	96.9%	15,572	85.0%
$15,000-15,999	16,837	84.5%	1,196	97.7%	18,033	88.0%
$16,000-16,999	8,340	86.4%	533	98.0%	8,873	89.4%
$17,000-24,999	36,595	94.7%	1,933	99.3%	38,528	94.9%
$25,000 or more	23,594	100.0%	1,170	100.0%	24,764	100.0%
Total	441,165	---	158,229	---	599,394	---
Median earnings	$9,540	---	$3,373	---	$7,880	---

and $10,900 for men (see Table 28).

Low earnings for women are not unique to the arts. Data for all professional workers in 1976 show that women professionals had median incomes that were 58 percent of the median incomes of male professionals. Differences in male and female earnings are, however, greater in the artist occupations than they are among all professional workers.

An earlier National Endowment for the Arts Research Division Report, Minorities and Women in the Arts: 1970, dealt with earnings of "established" artists who were at least 30 years old, had worked in the same occupation in 1965 and 1970, and had worked 40 weeks or more during the year. These earnings statistics were controlled for the effects of job inexperience and low work levels and showed that established women artists had median earnings that were less than half the median earnings of comparably established male artists: $5,500 for females as opposed to $12,000 for males. Large income differences between the sexes existed in all artist occupations.

Census data provide little additional information on reasons for inequality in pay. However, much has been written on this topic, suggesting such factors as delays in career development of women due to marriage, childrearing, lack of job training, less time available for income-producing work, occupational segregation, and discriminatory practices in employment and appraisals of work. Census data do show that women artists spend less time working for pay. In 1970 the proportion of male artists working 50 to 52 weeks per year and 30 hours or more per week was nearly double the proportion of female artists working at this level.

1976

Males		Females		Total	
Number	Cumulative	Number	Cumulative	Number	Cumulative
6,708	1.1%	6,723	2.4%	13,341	1.5%
93,980	16.3%	89,329	33.9%	183,309	21.8%
43,962	23.4%	28,606	44.0%	72,568	29.8%
23,317	27.1%	17,133	50.0%	40,450	34.3%
22,288	30.7%	15,127	55.4%	37,415	38.5%
14,539	33.1%	16,072	61.1%	30,611	41.8%
29,284	37.8%	14,127	66.0%	43,411	46.7%
16,158	40.4%	16,029	71.7%	32,187	50.2%
21,988	44.0%	21,042	79.1%	43,030	55.0%
17,139	46.7%	10,735	82.9%	27,874	58.1%
22,312	50.3%	12,515	87.3%	34,827	61.9%
21,048	53.7%	8,897	90.5%	29,945	65.2%
31,085	58.7%	7,707	93.2%	38,792	69.5%
29,950	63.6%	3,218	94.3%	33,168	73.2%
22,856	67.2%	1,189	94.7%	24,045	75.9%
33,431	72.7%	4,855	96.5%	38,286	80.1%
22,285	76.3%	2,661	97.4%	24,946	82.9%
93,801	91.4%	5,320	99.8%	99,121	93.9%
54,181	100.0%	2,059	100.0%	55,240	100.0%
619,312	---	283,344	---	902,656	---
$10,910	---	$3,933	---	$7,936	---

Table 29

Median earnings in artists' occupations by age and sex 1970

	Age 18-24		Age 25-34	
Occupation	Males	Females	Males	Females
Actors	**$1,900**	**$1,900**	**$ 7,500**	**$5,800**
Architects	$4,600	$3,500	$10,900	$8,000
Authors	**$3,600**	**$3,000**	**$10,200**	**$5,100**
Dancers	$3,200	$2,900	$ 5,500	$4,100
Designers	**$6,300**	**$3,500**	**$10,400**	**$6,000**
Musicians/composers	$1,900	$1,300	$ 6,500	$1,700
Painters/sculptors	**$3,800**	**$3,100**	**$ 8,600**	**$4,700**
Photographers	$4,000	$1,900	$ 8,400	$4,100
Radio-TV announcers	**$2,800**	**$3,300**	**$ 7,900**	**$3,800**
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	$1,900	$1,450	$ 8,000	$4,800
Other artists not elsewhere classified	**$2,900**	**$2,600**	**$ 8,800**	**$4,800**
All artists	$3,100	$2,300	$ 9,100	$4,400
All professional, technical, and kindred workers	**$4,400**	**$3,900**	**$ 9,700**	**$6,200**

*Denotes too few cases for reliable estimates.
Cases included in median earnings for "All artists."

Age

Age of the artist is an important factor in earnings for all artist occupations. In 1970, artists between the ages of 18 and 24 were very low earners, averaging about $3,000 per year. Earnings rose with age and peaked in the 34-54 age group, declining slightly after age 55.

There were some interesting exceptions. Among teachers and musicians/composers, median earnings did not decline after age 55. Among women, the earning peak occurred at a younger age, between 25 and 34, declining slightly after age 35 and then remaining stable (see Table 29).

The effects of age on earnings are generally similar for artists and all professional workers, but if earnings of women are isolated, it can be seen that median earnings of all female professionals continue to rise with age all the way into the 55-64 age group while median earnings of female artists tend to decline after 34. In all age groups, earnings of women artists and other women professional continue to be considerably lower than earnings of men. These data also confirm athat in all age groups both male and female artists earn less than all professional workers at equivalent ages.

Age 35-54		Age 55-64	
Males	Females	Males	Females
$10,000	$6,000	$ 8,500	$3,100
$15,300	$7,500	$15,100	$3,500
$12,200	$3,900	$10,300	$5,800
$12,500	$6,000	...*	...*
$12,500	$5,800	$12,000	$7,600
$ 8,400	$1,700	$ 8,500	$1,700
$11,100	$3,900	$10,200	$4,000
$ 9,900	$4,000	$ 9,400	$5,600
$11,700	$3,000	$ 9,800	...*
$12,700	$6,600	$13,700	$9,600
$11,200	$4,600	$10,400	$3,000
$12,000	$4,000	$10,800	$4,000
$13,100	$6,500	$12,500	$7,300

Table 30

Median earnings in artists' occupations by education and sex 1970

	Less than four years high school		Four years high school	
Occupation	Males	Females	Males	Females
Actors	$ 8,200	$4,500	$ 6,900	$3,400
Architects	$ 9,000	...*	$13,400	$6,300
Authors	$11,600	...*	$11,000	$2,800
Dancers	...*	$2,000	$ 9,000	$5,000
Designers	$10,400	$5,200	$11,000	$5,400
Musicians/composers	$ 6,000	$1,600	$ 7,600	$1,800
Painters/sculptors	$10,200	$3,400	$ 9,600	$3,900
Photographers	$ 9,200	$3,700	$ 9,500	$4,500
Radio-TV announcers	$ 9,200	...*	$ 8,500	$2,500
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	$ 7,800	...*	$10,200	$6,200
Other artists not elsewhere classified	$ 7,600	$3,600	$10,000	$4,600
All artists	$ 8,900	$3,400	$10,100	$3,800
All professional, technical, and kindred workers	$ 9,100	$4,400	$10,400	$5,400

*Denotes too few cases for reliable estimates.
Cases included in median earnings for "All artists."

Education

Education correlates positively with artist earnings. As educational attainment rises, earnings increase. The artist population has a relatively high level of education. In 1970, 89 percent of artists aged 25-64 had completed high school and 38 percent had four years or more of college.

Median earnings of Male artists ages 25-64 with at least four years of college were $12,000 in 1970 (see Table 30). Male artists in the same age group earned $10,000 if they had only a high school education, and $8,900 if high school had not been completed.

Among female artists, education is also important and has its greatest effect on earnings for the college-educated. Although female artists with a college education had median earnings of only $5,200 in 1970, this represents a 37 percent increase in earnings over the same age group of women artists with only a high school education. In comparison, median earnings of college-educated male artists rose only 19 percent above those with a high school education.

On all educational levels, artists' earnings in 1970 were lower than earnings of all professional workers. These differences were greater among women than men.

Educational attainment is greater in some artist occupations than it is in others. In 1970 the highest educated artist occupation was teachers of art, drama and music in higher education--95 percent of who had attended college. This was followed by architects (86 percent) and authors (78 percent). The occupations with the lowest educational levels in 1970

One-three years college		Four or more years college	
Males	Females	Males	Females
$ 7,600	$8,200	$ 8,600	$5,100
$12,700	...*	$13,800	$8,500
$10,600	$6,200	$12,300	$5,200
...*	$3,000	$ 5,500	...*
$11,300	$6,500	$12,500	$6,900
$ 8,000	$1,700	$ 8,800	$1,800
$10,300	$4,000	$ 1,800	$5,500
$ 9,200	$2,800	$ 9,500	$5,000
$ 9,900	$4,500	$10,800	$7,500
$ 9,300	$3,300	$11,000	$6,800
$10,400	$5,100	$11,200	$5,000
$10,400	$3,900	$12,000	$5,200
$10,800	$5,500	$13,000	$7,600

Table 31

Proportion of artists age 25-64 with some college education by occupation 1970

Actors	62%
Architects	**86%**
Authors	78%
Dancers	**22%**
Designers	62%
Musicians/composers	**52%**
Painters/sculptors	60%
Photographers	**36%**
Radio-TV announcers	63%
Teachers of art, drama and music (higher education)	**95%**
Other artists not elsewhere classified	55%
All artists	**62%**

were dancers and photographers. Only 22 percent of dancers and 36 percent of photographers had attended college (see Table 31).

These educational differences correlate positively with the earnings achieved in each occupation. In particular, architects and authors have high earnings, while earnings of dancers and photographers are relatively low.

Race

As previously described, median earnings for all artists did not change from 1970 to 1976. For black artists during this six-year period, median earnings actually declined from $5,800 in 1970 to about $4,900 in 1976 (see Table 32). As a group, black artists earned about 70 percent of median earnings of the white artist population in 1970. By 1976, their relative earnings dropped to about 60 percent.

The effects of race on earnings appear to be greater among artists than among all professional workers. For all professionals, blacks had median earnings of $9,800 in 1976. This represented 85 percent of the $11,500 in median earnings of white professionals. For additional detail, refer to National Endowment for the Arts, Research Division Report #7 (see list at the back of this report).

Table 32 **Artists' earnings by race 1970 and 1976**

1970	Blacks		Whites	
Earnings	Number	Cumulative	Number	Cumulative
$0-1,999	3,530	17.9%	96,720	17.0%
$2,000-2,999	1,465	25.4%	29,421	22.2%
$3,000-3,999	1,789	34.4%	30,619	27.5%
$4,000-4,999	1,572	42.4%	26,075	32.1%
$5,000-5,999	1,855	51.8%	32,187	37.8%
$6,000-6,999	1,552	59.7%	31,131	43.3%
$7,000-7,999	1,374	66.7%	33,837	49.2%
$8,000-9,999	2,066	77.2%	69,234	61.4%
$10,000-11,999	1,868	86.7%	68,248	73.4%
$12,000-14,999	1,524	94.4%	62,453	84.3%
$15,000-24,999	870	98.8%	64,937	95.8%
$25,000 or more	236	100.0%	24,140	100.0%
Total	19,701	---	569,002	---
Median earnings	$5,800	---	$8,200	---

1976	Blacks		Whites	
Earnings	Number	Cumulative	Number	Cumulative
$0-1,999	10,518	22.3%	182,434	21.9%
$2,000-2,999	6,938	37.0%	63,110	29.5%
$3,000-3,999	2,329	41.9%	36,246	33.9%
$4,000-4,999	4,449	51.3%	31,500	37.6%
$5,000-5,999	2,374	56.3%	27,993	41.0%
$6,000-7,999	4,800	66.5%	36,853	45.4%
$7,000-7,999	2,544	71.9%	29,254	49.0%
$8,000-9,999	4,197	80.0%	64,937	56.8%
$10,000-11,999	1,355	83.6%	62,904	64.3%
$12,000-14,999	2,213	88.3%	90,851	75.2%
$15,000-24,999	3,456	95.6%	154,648	93.8%
$25,000 or more	2,060	100.0%	51,454	100.0%
Total	47,233	---	832,131	---
Median earnings	$4,861	---	$8,228	---

Table 33 **Median earnings in artists' occupations by region 1970**

Occupation	Northeast	North Central	South	West
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$ 5,100	$ 6,400
Architects	$12,800	$13,200	$12,600	$12,700
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$10,000	$ 8,600
Dancers	$ 3,900	$ 4,000	$ 2,300	$ 3,700
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$ 8,900	$ 9,400
Musicians/composers	$ 3,600	$ 2,000	$ 2,700	$ 3,600
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$ 5,700	$ 6,600
Photographers	$ 8,200	$ 7,700	$ 7,100	$ 7,800
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$ 5,900	$ 7,200
Teachers of art, drama, music (higher education)	$10,200	$ 8,500	$ 8,400	$10,200
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$ 6,800	$ 7,600
All artists	$ 8,600	$ 8,200	$ 6,800	$ 7,700

Residence

Artists living in different geographic regions of the country had some differences in earnings. In 1970, artists in the Northeast had median earnings of $8,600 compared with $8,200 in the North Central region, $7,700 in the West, and $6,800 in the South (see Table 33). Within specific artist occupations there is some variation in 1970 median earnings from one region to another. The actor occupation has the greatest range. In 1970, actors reported very low median earnings (less than $3,000) in the North Central region, but averaged $6,400 in the West. Architects had the most uniform earnings across the four regions in 1970.

In the metropolitan areas of New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, median earnings of artists were very similar in 1970. Chicago's artists reported median earnings of $9,500, New York artists $9,300, and Los Angeles artists $8,500. In the individual occupations, the greatest variability in earnings was for musicians/ composers, photographers, teachers, and radio-TV announcers. Musicians/composers earned most in New York and Los Angeles, photographers earned most in Chicago, and teachers earned most in Los Angeles (see Table 34).

Table 34 **Median earnings in artists' occupations in three largest Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas 1970**

Occupation	New York	Los Angeles	Chicago
Actors	$ 5,100	$ 6,200	$ 5,000
Architects	$15,100	$13,800	$13,800
Authors	$ 7,800	$ 8,400	$ 6,500
Dancers	$ 5,700	$ 4,000	$ 4,000
Designers	$10,300	$10,200	$11,100
Musicians/composers	$ 6,500	$ 6,500	$ 3,800
Painters/sculptors	$ 9,200	$ 7,400	$ 9,100
Photographers	$ 9,000	$ 7,300	$ 9,600
Radio-TV announcers	...*	...*	...*
Teachers of art, drama, music (higher education)	$ 9,100	$11,300	$ 9,300
Other artists not elsewhere classified	$ 9,200	$ 8,900	$ 8,800
All artists	$ 9,300	$ 8,500	$ 9,500

*Denotes too few cases for reliable estimates.
Cases included in median earnings for "All artists."

Household earnings

Earnings of other members of artists' households tend to offset the relatively low personal earnings of certain artists. The data show that household-level median earnings tended to remain constant at about $13,000 in 1970 (see Table 36) and $18,000 in 1976 (see Table 37), regardless of the amount of time the artist in the household worked during the year or the sex of the artist (see Table 35). Data in 1970 also show that artist occupational differences diminish when household-level earnings are considered (see Table 38). This suggests that many artist with low personal earnings are dependent on other household earners to maintain the household income at a satisfactory level.

Household earnings for artists are also closer to household earnings for all professional workers than was the case with personal earnings. In 1976, median household earnings for artists were about $17,900 compared with $20,400 in median household earnings for professional workers. These data suggest that, while artists' personal earnings are relatively low, artists tend to be members of households with professional-level earnings. Although artists' personal earnings did not increase significantly between 1970 and 1976, their total household earnings rose considerably during the period, by about 40 percent.

Table 35 **Median household earnings of artists by sex and weeks worked 1970 and 1976**

	All artist households	Male artist households	Female artist households	Artists who worked 40 or more weeks households
1970	$12,800	$12,900	$12,400	$13,300
1976	$17,900	$18,200	$17,500	$19,000

Table 36

Artists' heads of household earnings by sex 1970 and 1976

Earnings	Male heads of households		Female heads of households		Total	
	Number	Cumulative	Number	Cumulative	Number	Cumulative
Loss	501	.1%	167	.1%	668	.1%
$0-1,999	12,801	3.1%	7,306	4.9%	20,107	3.5%
$2,000-2,999	8,286	5.0%	4,276	7.6%	12,562	5.7%
$3,000-3,999	9,230	7.1%	4,886	10.8%	14,116	8.1%
$4,000-4,999	12,000	9.9%	5,169	14.2%	17,169	11.0%
$5,000-5,999	13,871	13.1%	6,940	18.7%	20,811	14.5%
$6,000-6,999	15,237	16.6%	6,833	23.1%	22,070	18.3%
$7,000-7,999	17,878	20.7%	7,799	28.2%	25,677	22.7%
$8,000-8,999	23,877	26.2%	8,508	33.8%	32,385	28.2%
$9,000-9,999	23,930	31.7%	7,339	38.5%	31,269	33.5%
$10,000-10,999	30,986	38.8%	9,037	44.4%	40,023	40.3%
$11,000-11,999	25,688	44.7%	7,190	49.1%	32,878	45.9%
$12,000-12,999	28,777	51.4%	9,203	55.1%	37,980	52.3%
$13,000-13,999	24,803	57.1%	7,003	59.6%	31,806	57.8%
$14,000-14,999	21,181	62.0%	6,662	64.0%	27,843	62.5%
$15,000-15,999	22,455	67.1%	5,774	67.7%	28,229	67.3%
$16,000-16,999	16,838	71.0%	5,734	71.5%	22,572	71.1%
$17,000-24,999	80,265	89.5%	27,118	89.1%	107,383	89.4%
$25,000 or more	45,596	100.0%	16,749	100.0%	62,345	100.0%
Total	441,165	---	158,229	---	599,394	---
Median earnings	$ 12,914	---	$ 12,398	---	$ 12,789	---

Table 37 Artists' heads of household earnings by sex 1976

Earnings	Male heads of households		Female heads of households		Total	
	Number	Cumulative	Number	Cumulative	Number	Cumulative
$0-1,999	11,547	1.9%	6,002	2.2%	17,549	2.0%
$2,000-2,999	7,831	3.2%	4,584	3.9%	12,415	3.4%
$3,000-3,999	11,114	5.1%	7,570	6.7%	18,684	5.6%
$4,000-4,999	8,654	6.2%	5,105	8.6%	11,759	6.9%
$5,000-5,999	13,137	8.4%	10,759	12.6%	23,895	9.7%
$6,000-6,999	14,483	10.8%	10,654	16.5%	25,137	12.6%
$7,000-7,999	12,772	12.9%	6,626	18.9%	19,398	14.8%
$8,000-8,999	13,961	15.3%	7,190	21.6%	21,151	17.2%
$9,000-9,999	16,773	18.0%	10,514	25.5%	27,288	20.4%
$10,000-10,999	19,194	21.2%	13,047	30.3%	32,241	24.1%
$11,000-11,999	22,060	24.9%	10,572	34.2%	32,632	27.8%
$12,000-12,999	17,794	27.9%	7,233	36.9%	25,027	30.7%
$13,000-13,999	29,110	32.7%	7,729	39.7%	36,840	34.9%
$14,000-14,999	19,170	35.9%	8,571	42.9%	27,741	38.1%
$15,000-15,999	41,915	42.9%	7,228	45.6%	49,143	43.7%
$16,000-16,999	22,329	46.6%	11,050	49.6%	33,379	47.6%
$17,000-17,999	26,008	51.0%	14,558	55.0%	40,566	52.2%
$18,000-18,999	19,224	54.2%	11,522	59.3%	30,746	55.8%
$19,000-19,999	27,840	58.8%	5,269	61.2%	33,109	59.6%
$20,000-24,999	95,136	74.7%	28,941	71.9%	124,077	73.8%
$25,000 or more	151,828	100.0%	76,149	100.0%	227,977	100.0%
Total	619,307	---	283,346	---	902,656	---
Median earnings	$ 18,198	---	$ 17,497	---	$ 17,913	---

Architect households continued to have the highest median earnings of any artist occupation, and dancer households remained at the low end of the earnings scale. The low household-level earnings of dancers may be attributed to the high proportion of dancers who are female heads of household. Selected Characteristics of Artists: 1970, National Endowment for the Arts, Research Division Report #10 examines this subject in detail (see list at the back of this report).

Table 38 **Median household earnings in artists' occupations 1970**

Actors	$12,500
Architects	**$15,800**
Authors	$13,700
Dancers	**$ 8,000**
Designers	$13,500
Musicians/composers	**$11,300**
Painters/sculptors	$12,400
Photographers	**$11,800**
Radio-TV announcers	$12,000
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	**$13,800**
Other artists not elsewhere classified	$12,500
All artists	**$12,800**

Role of the artist as a household provider

Like other workers in the United States, artists help provide for the economic needs of their families. Many artists are heads of families and chief income recipients in their families. Census and SIE data are used here to examine the relationship of artists' earnings to their household and family earnings.

Contribution to household earnings

The contribution by artists to household-level earnings is an indicator of the ex-

Table 39

Artists' personal earnings as a proportion of median household earnings by sex and weeks worked 1970 and 1976

	All artists	Male	Female	Worked 40 or more weeks
1970	62%	74%	27%	71%
1976	44%	60%	23%	57%

tent of financial dependence of artists on other household earners. This was examined by calculating the proportion of median household earnings that are accounted for by median personal earnings of artists. In 1970, artists' median personal earnings accounted for well over half (62 percent) of their median household earnings, but by 1976 their contribution dropped to below half (about 44 percent). Artists who worked 40 or more weeks during the year contributed a greater share to household earnings--71 percent in 1970 and about 57 percent in 1976 (see Table 39).

Female artists were considerably more dependent on earnings of other household members than were male artists. In 1970 and 1976, their median earnings accounted for only about one-fourth of their median household income.

The extent of artists' contributions to household earnings varied by occupation in 1970. As might be expected, artists in the highest-earning occupations (architects; designers; teachers of art, drama, and music in higher education; and authors) contributed most to their household incomes, while artists in the lowest-earning occupations (musicians and dancers) contributed least. As shown in Figure V, artists in high-earning occupations provided about three-fourths of their household earnings, while in low-earning occupations artists were able to provide less than half, making them more dependent on other household earners.

Figure V **Median personal earnings as a proportion of median household earnings in artists' occupations 1970**

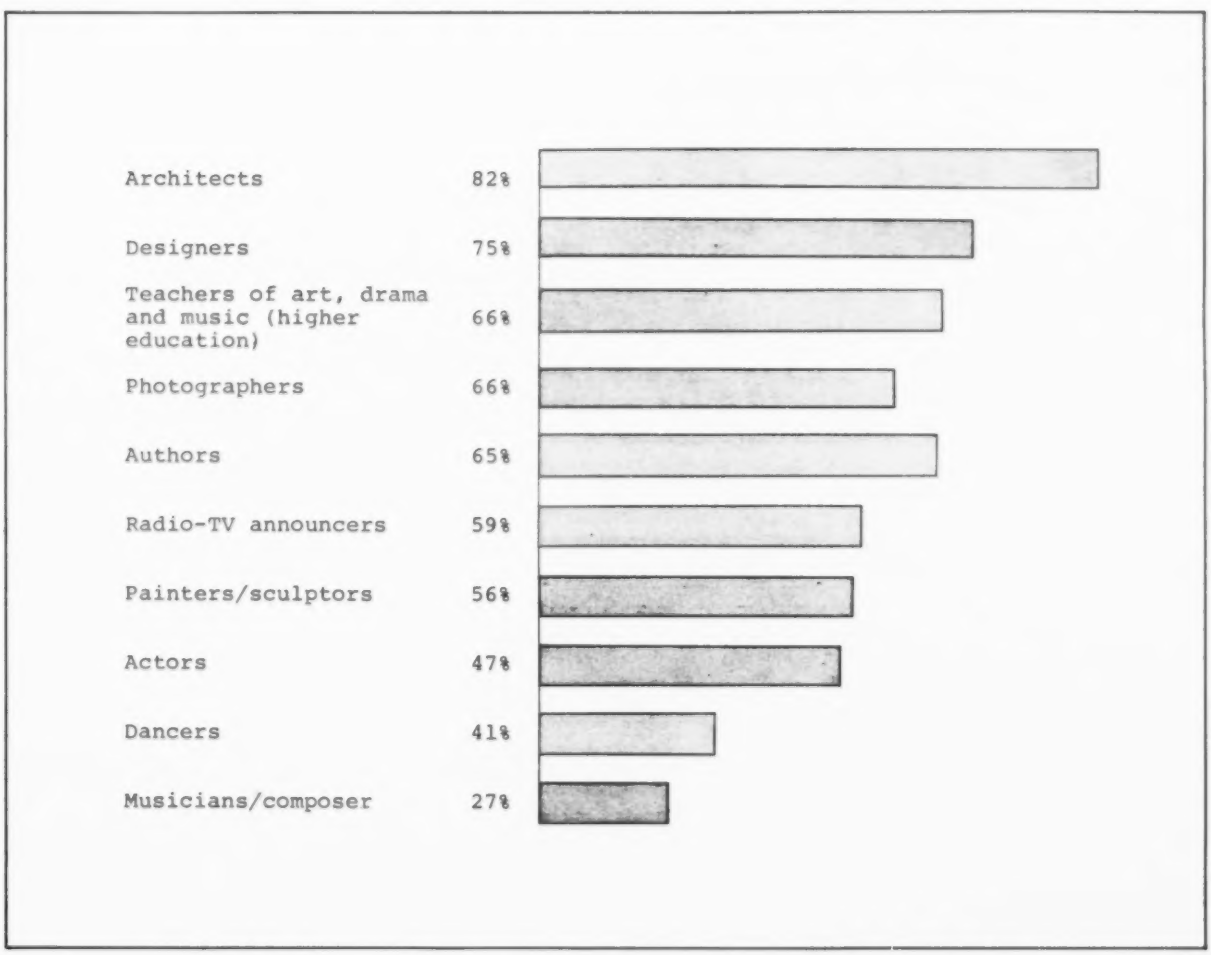

Table 40

Chief household income recipients in artists' occupations by weeks worked 1969

Occupation	Worked in 1969		Worked 40 or more weeks in 1969	
	Number of chief income recipients	Percent of total in households	Number of chief income recipients	Percent of total in households
Actors	9,498	69%	4,637	76%
Architects	52,636	93%	49,403	95%
Authors	20,591	78%	18,223	83%
Dancers	4,038	61%	2,371	68%
Designers	90,585	82%	84,428	86%
Musicians/composers	53,363	56%	37,305	64%
Painters/sculptors	73,551	69%	63,550	75%
Photographers	52,069	79%	47,171	83%
Radio-TV announcers	17,861	77%	14,925	82%
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	24,354	80%	19,125	85%
Other artists not elsewhere classified	47,345	74%	40,340	80%
All artists	445,091	74%	383,482	80%

Chief income recipients in households

The 1970 Census asked persons whether they were the family member with the largest income. Nearly three-fourths of artists, including those not living in families, said they were the chief income recipient (see Table 40). Artists who worked less than 40 weeks during the year have income-producing responsibilities to their households, with exactly half being the chief income recipient.

The proportion of artists who were chief income recipients in their households varied by artist occupation. As might be expected, artists in the highest-earning occupations (architects; designers; and teachers of art, drama, and music in higher education) were most likely to be chief income recipients for their households, while artists in the low-earning occupations (musicians and dancers) were least likely to be chief income recipients. Nevertheless, even in the dancer occupation, 61 percent were chief income recipients.

Worked less than 40 weeks in 1969	
Number of chief income recipients	Percent of total in households
[illegible]	[illegible]
3,233	68%
[illegible]	[illegible]
1,667	54%
[illegible]	[illegible]
16,058	44%
[illegible]	[illegible]
4,898	54%
[illegible]	[illegible]
5,229	64%
[illegible]	[illegible]
61,609	50%

Table 41

Chief family income recipients in artists' occupations by weeks worked 1969

Occupation	Worked in 1969		Worked 40 or more weeks in 1969	
	Number of chief income recipients	Percent of total in households	Number of chief income recipients	Percent of total in households
Actors	**4,342**	**50%**	**2,407**	**62%**
Architects	45,992	92%	43,963	95%
Authors	**15,028**	**72%**	**13,791**	**79%**
Dancers	1,702	40%	1,202	51%
Designers	**73,548**	**79%**	**70,748**	**83%**
Musicians/composers	32,571	44%	25,767	57%
Painters/sculptors	**53,912**	**62%**	**49,813**	**69%**
Photographers	42,994	75%	40,532	80%
Radio-TV announcers	**12,399**	**71%**	**11,730**	**78%**
Teachers of art, drama, and music (higher education)	16,917	73%	14,018	81%
Other artists not elsewhere classified	**35,071**	**68%**	**31,769**	**76%**
All artists	334,476	68%	305,740	77%

Artists who lived with family members were less likely to be chief income recipients in 1970 than the general group of artists in all types of living arrangements (see Table 41). In particular, family living arrangements allowed artists who worked less than 40 weeks during the year to be more dependent on other family members. Among artists living in families and working less than 40 weeks, only one-third were chief income recipients. This compares with half who were chief income recipients among <u>all</u> artists working less than 40 weeks.

Worked less than 40 weeks in 1969	
Number of chief income recipients	Percent of total in households
1,935	**41%**
2,029	57%
1,237	**15%**
500	26%
2,800	**33%**
6,804	25%
4,099	**26%**
2,462	37%
669	**28%**
2,899	49%
3,302	**34%**
28,736	32%

Artists as family heads

In the 1970 Census, the head of household for husband-wife families is always considered to be the husband for purposes of simplifying data tabulations. Therefore, these data cover only male artists. They are useful for comparative purposes with all professional workers. Among husband-wife families which had an artist as their head, 1970 median earnings were generally lower than median earnings among husband-wife families with all types of professional workers as their head (see Table 42). Architects and authors were an exception; their families generally had higher earnings than families of all professional workers. (The Bureau of the Census is planning to gradually eliminate the concept of household "head" in data

Table 42 **Median earnings in artists' occupations of husband-wife families with artist as head by size of family and number of earners 1970**

Occupation of family head	Two-person families		Three/four-person families	
	One earner	Two earners	One earner	Two or more earners
Actors	**$ 9,200**	**$ 8,800**	**$13,700**	**$14,800**
Architects	$16,900	$15,500	$14,900	$17,400
Authors	**$16,000**	**$13,500**	**$12,800**	**$16,200**
Dancers	...*	...*	...*	...*
Designers	**$12,400**	**$14,300**	**$12,800**	**$14,500**
Musicians/composers	$ 8,700	$ 9,700	$10,500	$11,200
Painters/sculptors	**$10,900**	**$13,400**	**$12,300**	**$14,300**
Photographers	$10,200	$12,600	$11,000	$13,300
Radio-TV announcers	**$16,200**	**$11,300**	**$10,400**	**$11,400**
Teachers of art, drama, music (higher education)	$13,500	$14,100	$11,900	$15,900
Other artists not elsewhere classified	**$12,000**	**$13,400**	**$11,700**	**$14,300**
All professional, technical, and kindred workers	$13,500	$13,900	$12,700	$14,900

*Denotes too few fases for reliable estimates.
Cases included in median earnings for "All artists."

enumeration and tabulation.)

Family size seemed to make little difference in total family income. Family incomes increased only slightly as family size increased. These trends existed for both artists and for all professional workers who were family heads.

Families with more than one earner generally had higher incomes than families with single earners. However, their incomes averaged only about $1,500 more in 1970 than incomes of single-earner families. In two-person families of architects, actors, authors, and radio-TV announcers, incomes averaged higher in families where only the household head was an earner than in families where both husband and wife worked.

Five-or-more person families	
One earner	Two or more earners
...*	...*
$16,500	$19,600
$13,600	**$14,000**
...*	...*
$13,500	**$15,500**
$10,200	$13,300
$13,000	**$15,400**
$12,200	$12,800
$12,600	**$14,100**
$14,100	$16,300
$12,700	**$14,600**
$14,000	$16,800

Table 43

Husband-wife families in artists' occupations with artist as head and two or more earners 1970

Occupation of family head	Total husband-wife families	Families with two or more earners	
		Number	Percent
Actors	**4,567**	**2,867**	**63%**
Architects	46,412	20,309	44%
Authors	**14,325**	**7,299**	**50%**
Dancers	463	198	43%
Designers	**68,422**	**34,327**	**50%**
Musicians/composers	33,009	19,874	60%
Painters/sculptors	**49,257**	**26,154**	**53%**
Photographers	44,543	24,928	56%
Radio-TV announcers	**12,260**	**7,695**	**63%**
Teachers of art, drama, music (higher education)	16,112	10,312	64%
Other artists not elsewhere classified	**33,914**	**17,712**	**52%**
All artists	323,284	171,605	53%
All professional, technical, and kindred workers	**5,643,951**	**3,273,180**	**58%**

Table 44

1969 poverty status in artists' occupations of husband-wife families with artist as head 1970

Occupation of family head	Income below poverty level	
	Number of families	Percent
Actors	**268**	**5.9%**
Architects	1,235	2.7%
Authors	**334**	**2.3%**
Dancers	...*	...*
Designers	**1,066**	**1.6%**
Musicians/composers	2,495	7.6%
Painters/sculptors	**1,538**	**3.1%**
Photographers	1,333	3.0%
Radio-TV announcers	**569**	**4.6%**
Teachers of art, drama, music (higher education)	596	3.7%
Other artists not elsewhere classified	**1,139**	**3.5%**
All artists	10,666	3.3%
All professional, technical and kindred workers	**96,097**	**1.7%**
All workers	2,251,252	5.5%

*Denotes too few cases for reliable estimates.

Among all husband-wife families which had an artist as their head, about half of the families had more than one earner (see Table 43). This was slightly lower than the average for all families with a professional worker at their head. The proportion of families which had more than one earner varied little by artist occupation.

Poverty status in artist families

Data on poverty status were developed using the Census Bureau's coding of poverty-level family income. This definition takes account of such factors as family size, number of children, and farm and nonfarm residence, as well as money income. In 1970, the average poverty threshold for a nonfarm family of four headed by a male was about $3,750.

The 1970 Census data show that very few artist families had incomes below the poverty level. Among husband-wife families with an artist as the head, only 3.3 percent had incomes below the poverty level (see Table 44). This figure ranged from 1.6 percent for designers to 7.6 percent for musicians and composers. Artist families were more likely to be in poverty status than families of all professional workers, but artist families were less likely to be in poverty status than families of the general population of United States workers.

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